

Environmental Solutions, Inc.
10625 Patterson Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23238
804.740.5605
www.envirsol.com



8 February 2008
For Immediate Release

Convergence of Land Use & Sustainability

At the recent 7th session of the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute (VNRLI), the focus was on consensus building, "Six Thinking Hats," the General Assembly, urban forestry, land conservation, and smart growth.

Harry E. Gregori, Jr. AICP, Vice President of Environmental Solutions, Inc. was invited to speak to attendees about the sustainability movement, its relationship to land use and environmental impacts, and the importance of collaboration and problem solving. Harry urged attendees to consider the sentiment of American philosopher, Robert Nozick, "My thoughts do not aim for your assent – just place them alongside your own reflections for a while." Harry went on to say, "Promoting sustainability is one thing and doing sustainability is a whole other ball game. Whether or not you agree with Al Gore, for instance, I do not think you can ignore what is being said – he has been able to get the attention of the nation when it comes to the subject of climate and sustainability."

At its most basic level, sustainable means "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

So what can you do to be sustainable? The concept of becoming sustainable can be overwhelming. It could involve multiple activities because natural and human activities are related. If we were to take land use, for instance, and create a list of impacts on the environment, you might have to consider: Transportation Infrastructure – we need things like roads, bridges, land disturbance, wetlands, asphalt, concrete, but they result in sprawl – which conceivably means vehicle emissions, congestion, accidents and spills; and, additionally we need energy to make everything in the first place.

While the task sounds daunting, Harry offered attendees a way to get started on the path as an agent of change: "I can tell you that you cannot change anything alone. You will experience resistance, you will not solve all the problems at once, you will need to collaborate, and you will need to take calculated risks. In summary, collaborate, build consensus, and be patient. "Some organizations are already successful in learning to maintain sustainable practice. For example, federal, state and local governments are taking initiative to promote technology and utilize beneficial uses of previously defined "wastes" destined for landfills. This new approach allows by-products to be used as raw material inputs into production without harm to human health or the environment. An additional example is ESI's own Sustainability Park™ fostering businesses that beneficially reuse wood byproducts which is made into horse bedding and the wood (waste) byproduct is then used as an additive in a composting process involving the use of tobacco byproducts and wood chips.

About ESI: Since 1990, Environmental Solutions, Inc. (ESI) has dedicated itself to providing environmental solutions integrating innovative processes, state of the art technology, and economics. ESI offers training and consulting, as well as, project development and management, using the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) principals. In addition, the company markets green products created as a result of projects managed by ESI. Environmental Solutions, Inc. is a closely-held, woman-owned business headquartered in Richmond, Virginia. ESI's President, Brenda Robinson, has more than 15 years of experience in a Fortune 500 company and more than fifteen years experience with technology-based businesses and co-founded ESI with her late husband, W. W. "Phil" Robinson. ESI's solutions are applicable, successful, and repeatable, working within your unique organizational requirements. For additional information on how ESI can assist your organization in turning waste (by-products) from a liability into an opportunity, visit us online at www.envirsol.com or call 804.740.5605.